CFAC Minutes 11/5/2020

Today's CFAC meeting was held to discuss proposals from the Division of Veteran Services, the Judicial Branch, and the Rebound Committee.

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 2:01pm. All committee members were present except for Joshua Whitworth, Chantel Greene, Dennis Johnson, Senator Bair, and Representative Youngblood.

To begin Tom Kealey motioned to amend the current agenda pursuant to section 74-204(4)(c), Idaho Code, to include an action item concerning the Division of Veteran Services for the good faith reason of an impact on the state veterans home that emerged in recent days. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keough. This motion passed unanimously. Adams noted that the amended agenda and handout had been posted in advance of the meeting for members of the public to access.

Next, Marv Hagedorn of the Division of Veteran Services presented a \$2 million request for his agency. Director Hagedorn stated that the Veterans Home in Boise is experiencing a larger than anticipated outbreak and the department's ability to staff is being impacted. The combination of COVID cases and COVID exposures to current staff have made the situation critical in terms of sick workers and the home being short staffed. Bobbi-Jo Meuleman moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Matt Newton. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, the Judicial Branch presented their proposal for \$1.16 million to help cover the increased costs the courts have incurred due to the pandemic. There has been a large transition to holding court proceedings and jury trials remotely. This additional funding would help accommodate remote jury selection procedures that the judicial branch is struggling with as well as to bring in retired judges to help alleviate the massive court backlog we are seeing. Representative Wintrow moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Jani Revier. The motion passed unanimously.

Last, Bobbi-Jo Meuleman presented a request for up to \$2 million for the Rebound Committee that has been dealing with public outreach and information dissemination across the state through the One Idaho campaign. This second part of funding is intended to focus on a new education information campaign that would help get the world out to Idahoans through the end of December. Representative Wintrow stated that she hoped that we could manage the COVID measures talked about by One Idaho more directly rather than through a suggestive campaign. Matt Newton moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Shawn Keough. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Adams concluded the meeting stating that the committee will be on standby and will take up any new proposals as they come along.